

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) should be commended for his dogged pursuit of the truth. The American public should wish him well.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about the high cost that Americans pay for prescription drugs, particularly relative to the industrialized world.

As I have mentioned on the floor before, we believe that Americans should pay their fair share in terms of the cost of the research and development of these miracle drugs. We even feel that it is fair enough that we should subsidize some of the developing countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa. We think, however, that it is outrageous that we are required to subsidize the starving Swiss.

Let me talk a little bit about what we did in the last 3 weeks. I was in Germany 3 weeks ago, and one of my staffers was able to go to one of the pharmacies at the Munich airport. Most of us know that when we buy things at the airport, that is usually not the cheapest place to buy things; and we went to the pharmacy there at the Munich airport and bought some drugs.

Among those we bought was Glucophage. Glucophage for 30 tablets, 850 milligrams, we bought at the Munich airport for \$5 American. That same drug at a pharmacy in Minnesota back in my district is not \$5 but \$29.95.

Cipro is a very effective antibiotic made by a German company by the name of Bayer. They came up with Bayer aspirins. They have been around a long time, but Cipro became very important when we went through the anthrax scare here in the Capitol complex. We purchased it at \$35.12 for 10 tablets at 250 milligrams. That same package in Minnesota sells for \$55; \$35 dollars in Germany, \$55 in the United States.

Actually the story gets worse. Another very popular drug, Zestril, we bought for \$25.04 American. It sells in the United States for \$59.95, more than double the price for the same drug, and the list gets worse.

One of the worst examples is this. This is a drug called Tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is a miracle drug. It is probably the best drug ever developed in terms of treating breast cancer. We bought this drug at the Munich airport at the pharmacy there, 60 tablets, 20 milligrams for \$59.05 American. This same drug, if we buy it here in pharmacies in Washington, D.C., will sell for \$360; \$60 in Germany, \$360 for exactly the same drug here in the United States.

What makes this story even worse is that the taxpayers paid for almost all of the research costs to develop this miracle drug. It was developed essen-

tially by the NIH. The company went out and got the patents, and now Americans are paying again.

Many of my colleagues say, well, shame on the pharmaceutical industry; and it is easy to say that, but I do not say shame on the pharmaceutical industry. I say shame on us. We are the policymakers. We are the ones who have created an environment that the pharmaceutical companies are taking advantage of; and shame on us for letting this happen, and let me give my colleagues another shame on us.

There was research that came out just a few days ago, the first time I had seen it; and what it said was that 29 percent of the prescriptions written to seniors in this country go unfilled because they cannot afford them. Shame on us.

We have created an environment where seniors today cannot afford the prescriptions that doctors write for them to save their lives. Shame on us. That is the problem.

The answer is open up markets. We have open markets for virtually everything else. The Food and Drug Administration allows hundreds and millions of tons of food to come into our country with virtually no inspection; but if a senior tries to import Tamoxifen to save their lives from Munich, Germany, they are treated as common criminals. Shame on us.

The answer is to pass commonsense, reimportation language this year. We are going to be talking about prescription drug benefits under Medicare here in the next several weeks in the Congress; but if we do not start seriously talking about affordable, if we do not talk about what we are going to do to control prices in this whole thing, there is not enough money in the Federal Treasury to pay for that benefit because we know the Congressional Budget Office tells us that over the next 10 years seniors in this country will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescriptions. We have allotted \$400 billion in this budget resolution over the next 10 years to take care not only of a prescription drug benefit but also to modernize Medicare, which is the right thing to do, and equalize the reimbursements.

The bottom line is that there is not enough money in this budget or any budget to pay for these huge disparities. Americans deserve world-class drugs at world market prices.

TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy. According to the dictionary, hypocrisy is defined as a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not.

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Mr. Speaker, I think hypocrisy is a good description of the recent state-

ment of the Texas Speaker of the House, Tom Craddick.

Americans have watched with interest over the last several days where 52 courageous Democratic legislators left the Texas Legislature, broke a quorum, and went to Ardmore, Oklahoma, in order to allow Texas citizens to have a voice in shaping their new congressional districts for the next decade. They were the ones that stopped a secret plan of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and Mr. Craddick that very few people in Texas had seen; that would have eventually destroyed communities of interest, distorted communities of interest across our State. They stopped that from happening without public input or awareness.

I think these 52 Democrats are heroes. But Mr. Craddick, who did not like that walkout by those 52 legislators, called them, in effect, chickens, along with his other Republican colleagues. Whoops. Turns out that the Waco Tribune Herald, in my hometown in Texas, did a little research. Mr. Craddick forgot to tell the Texas people about this. It turns out in 1971, as a State House member, Mr. Craddick was part of a group called the Dirty 30 that did exactly what these members have done this week: He walked out of the Texas House of Representatives to express a protest over issues.

Hypocrisy. I find it interesting that Speaker Craddick has referenced the Alamo in regard to this incident. Well, in all due respect, Mr. Craddick is no Davy Crockett, and if he would review his Texas history, Mr. Craddick would remember that the defenders of the Alamo were committed people of conscience, committed to the high principle of fighting to see that all Texans had a voice in shaping their families' and their communities' destinies.

That is what these 52 courageous Democrats are doing in Oklahoma today. They are fighting with the courage of their convictions. They are profiles in courage trying to see that all Texans, not just Mr. DELAY and Mr. Craddick, who, with a secret, behind-closed-door map, are trying to shape the future of our congressional districts in our great State.

Hypocrisy, I think, is an apt definition for the statements of Mr. Craddick, given what he did in 1971, walking out of the Texas House of Representatives with 29 of his colleagues.

Now, one of the other things that I find very distasteful that we have watched in the last several days is that, with glee, Republican House Members in Texas put together playing cards to mimic the liberty cards that were put together to identify terrorists in Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. I find it deeply offensive, and I think most Texans will find it equally offensive, that Texas Republican legislators would try to compare Texas State officials, who have been elected by their citizens to stand up and fight for their freedoms and their opportunities, to